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Letter dated 10 August 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you concerning the letter dated 3 August 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (A/50/328-S/1995/644).

Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that in the said letter, the legitimate Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina is being referred to as "the Muslim leadership in Bosnia and Herzegovina", and its army as "the Muslim Army". Addressing a State Member of the United Nations and its army in such a manner reflects not only the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's (Serbia and Montenegro) ill-designs for, but also its distorted concept of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I would also like to emphasize that Turkey placed its peace-keeping troops under the command of the United Nations, with your Excellency's recommendation and upon the approval of the Security Council. The performance of the Turkish troops within the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) as a competent and impartial unit has been acclaimed by the United Nations on numerous occasions.

On the other hand, as sovereign States, Turkey and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina are fully entitled to promote further and deepen their bilateral relations. This in no way could be construed as a contradiction with the status of Turkey as a troop-contributor country to UNPROFOR.

The Turkish peace-keeping contingent within UNPROFOR will continue to discharge its tasks under the instructions of the UNPROFOR Commander and within the framework of its mandate.

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* A/50/150.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 81 of the provisional agenda and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative